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REMARKS

Claim 11 is amended to recite a catalyst that consists essentially of the listed components.

New claim 19 is added to recite a catalyst consisting essentially of two molecular sieve components and an amorphous inorganic oxide. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed and in paragraph 0021. Paragraph 0021 details that the metal hydrogenation component may be found only on the dewaxing component (molecular sieve).

New claims 18 and 20 – 30 are added. Support for new claims 18 and 20 – 30 can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed.

Claims 12 and 17 are amended to improve the readability of the claim language.

Claims 1 – 10 are canceled.

I. **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 – US 6,620,312 (Murphy)**

Claims 11 - 17

The rejection of claims 11 – 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Murphy is respectfully traversed. Claim 11 as amended requires a unitized catalyst consisting essentially of two molecular sieve components. Claim 11 as amended does not include an amorphous inorganic oxide as part of the unitized catalyst. Murphy does not describe or suggest such a catalyst.

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Murphy provides a method for producing a lube basestock from a waxy feed. In particular, Murphy describes processing a feed under hydrocatalytic dewaxing conditions with a catalyst composed of at least two components. The first component of the catalyst is a catalytically active metal component on a dewaxing catalyst, such as a zeolite dewaxing catalyst, while the second component is a catalytically active metal on an amorphous hydroisomerization catalyst or on a refractory metal oxide catalyst.

Murphy does not provide any teaching or suggestion that the second, amorphous hydroisomerization or refractory metal oxide component having a catalytically active metal component can be omitted from a catalyst. Thus, all of the unitized catalysts taught by Murphy require the presence of both a zeolite/molecular sieve type component and an amorphous type component. By contrast, the claimed invention requires contacting a waxy feed with a unitized catalyst consisting essentially of two molecular sieve components. In order to arrive at the unitized catalyst required by the claimed invention, one of skill in the art would have to ignore the express teaching of Murphy and select a catalyst containing two molecular sieve components, instead of one zeolite/molecular sieve type component and one amorphous component. No motivation or suggestion is provided in Murphy to ignore this express teaching of Murphy and instead select a unitized catalyst according to the claimed invention.

Based on the above, Murphy fails to describe or suggest contacting a waxy feedstock with a unitized catalyst consisting essentially of components (i) and (ii) according to the claimed invention. For at least these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11 is requested. Additionally, allowance of corresponding dependent claims 12 – 18 is requested.

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II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 – US 5,723,716; 5,770,542; and 5,977,425
(Brandes)

Claims 11 – 17

The rejection of claims 11 – 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Brandes references is respectfully traversed. Similar to Murphy, the Brandes references do not describe or suggest contacting a waxy feed with a unitized catalyst consisting essentially of components (i) and (ii) as required by claim 11.

The Brandes references provide a method for producing a lube basestock from a waxy feed. One of the steps described in the Brandes references is processing a feed under upgrading conditions with a catalyst composed of at least two components. The first component of the catalyst is a catalytically active metal component on a dewaxing catalyst, such as a zeolite dewaxing catalyst, while the second component is a catalytically active metal on an amorphous hydroisomerization catalyst or on a refractory metal oxide catalyst.

The Brandes references do not provide any teaching or suggestion that the second, amorphous hydroisomerization or refractory metal oxide catalyst can be omitted. Thus, all of the unitized catalysts taught by the Brandes references require the presence of both a 10 member ring unidirectional pore inorganic oxide molecular sieve type component and an amorphous type component. By contrast, the claimed invention requires a unitized catalyst consisting essentially of two molecular sieve components. In order to arrive at the unitized catalyst required by the claimed invention for contacting the waxy feed, one of skill in the art would have to ignore the express teaching of the Brandes references and formulate a catalyst containing two molecular sieve components, instead of one zeolite/molecular sieve type component and one amorphous component. No

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motivation or suggestion is provided in the Brandes references to ignore this express teaching to form a unitized catalyst according to the claimed invention.

Based on the above, the Brandes references fail to describe or suggest contacting a waxy feedstock with a unitized catalyst consisting essentially of components (i) and (ii) according to the claimed invention. For at least these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11 is requested. Additionally, allowance of corresponding dependent claims 12 – 18 is requested.

III. New Claims 19 - 30

New claims 19 – 30 require contacting a waxy feedstock with a unitized catalyst consisting essentially of a first molecular sieve component having a metal hydrogenation component dispersed thereon, a second molecular sieve component having a metal hydrogenation component dispersed thereon, and an amorphous inorganic oxide component. Note that because the catalyst consists essentially of these components, the presence of a metal hydrogenation component on the amorphous inorganic oxide component is excluded.

New claims 19 – 30 are allowable in view of Murphy and/or the Brandes references. Murphy and the Brandes references both require unitized catalysts that are composed of at least two components. The first component of the unitized catalyst is a catalytically active metal component on a dewaxing catalyst, such as a zeolite dewaxing catalyst, while the second component is a catalytically active metal component on an amorphous hydroisomerization catalyst or on a refractory metal oxide catalyst. By contrast, claim 19 requires an amorphous inorganic oxide component that does not include a catalytically active metal component. No teaching or suggestion is provided in Murphy and/or the Brandes references that the catalytically active metal component can be omitted from the amorphous hydroisomerization catalyst or refractory metal oxide catalyst. Thus, Murphy

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and/or the Brandes references fail to describe or suggest every element of the claimed invention in claim 19. For at least this reason, claim 19, and corresponding dependent claims 20 – 30, are allowable in view of the currently cited references.

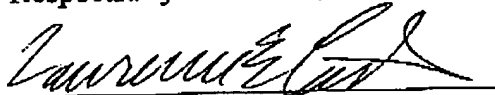
IV. Conclusion

Having demonstrated that all rejections of claims have been overcome, this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request early and favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated, since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1330.

Respectfully submitted,



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☒ Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.34(a)

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